

ENGLAND amateur striker, Micky Mells will be playing for Belgian League professionals, Ostend this season.

His shock move is believed to make the ex-Wycombe Wanderer one of Britain's first amateur commuters into the European soccer scene.

He links with three former Reading colleagues at his new club, Dennis Allan, Roger Smeet and Bobby Williams were all in the same Elm Park squad two seasons ago.

Although living in Surrey, Mells is shortly to start a new teaching job just outside Southampton.

Ironically, the plane trip to the continent should prove quicker than the journey to Wycombe—or possibly even a more local club such as Sutton, with whom he won an Amateur Cup Final medal.

Mells wasted no time in making a strong impact after transferring from Southern League Winchester to Loakes Park in December 1971. But injury trouble reduced his contribution in later months.

All told he recorded 21 outings in Wanderers' blue, scoring only five goals yet

MIKE WHITESMAN focuses the Loakes Park scene

providing the spark for many more.

So two of the five England caps' at Wycombe last season have departed.

But while Ted Powell was settling into his new player-coach role at Kingstonian, Bernie Bremer played—and scored—in Saturday's friendly against Waterlooville.

The man with a shot like dynamite began last term at Loakes Park before an early switch to the K's. Now living in St. Albans, Bremer has been training with Wycombe again after just under a season away from the fold.

With players the calibre of John Delaney, Larry Pritchard and goalkeeper John Maskell still on holiday Wanderers need not feel unduly worried about Saturday's 2-1 defeat away to Southern League Premier Division new boys, Waterlooville at Jubilee Park.

The Isthmian League champions were also minus ace scorer, Keith Searle. Currently nursing a puffed up ankle, injured during training, he

is racing time in a bid to pass fit for the August 12 kick-off.

Wycombe meanwhile called in the evergreen Tony Horseman to spearhead an attack sorely lacking recognised strikers on the day.

The line-up in fact looked particularly makeshift. Several men playing out of position and others, such as Chris Costin and Burnham's Jeff Banks, helping out in a state of emergency.

A correspondent writes

The patchwork Wanderers fought well to hang on to the lead for an hour. They were beaten only by a wonderful goal from Waterlooville's Barry Dyer six minutes from the end.

Although he could perhaps be slightly faulted with the winning goal, 'keeper Kevin O'Brien had a fine match and made several good saves in the second half when the 'Ville gained almost total command.

After a scrappy opening, the match burst into life in the 17th minute when Bernie Bremer put Wanderers ahead

with a scorching volley from just inside the penalty area. Goalkeeper Dyke had no chance of saving his shot after the opening had been made by John Hutchinson and Horseman.

But from then on the home side gradually took control. O'Brien made a fine save from Allen just before the interval, and in the second half he continued to keep the 'Vile at bay—until the 78th minute.

Then he was left helpless as Barry Jack blocked a clearance and blasted the ball home.

Six minutes later, Dyer raced down the left touchline, spotted O'Brien fractionally out of position, and scored with a magnificent chip, which went in off the far post.

Wycombe staged a belated rally in the closing stages and 'Ville player-manager Pat Wright saved his side with a headed clearance after Williams had centred the ball across an open goal.

Williams in fact proved Wycombe's man of the match, while Derek Gamblin also

played with authority. Hutchinson made a promising start, but faded somewhat in the later stages.

Gerry Olsen, last season with Maidenhead, was slow to settle, as was Paul Birdseye, who suffered Wanderers' first match injury when crashing into a barrier after only four minutes.

WANDERERS: O'Brien; Rundle, Banks, (sub: Costin, 50 mins); Bullock, Olsen, Williams, Bremer, Gamblin, Horseman, Birdseye, Hutchinson.

WATERLOOVILLE: Dyke; Wright, Macdonald, Phillips, Kill, Avery, Dyer, Cheverton, Allen, Bradwell, Jack. Sub: Hare.